

The FisherPoets Gathering thanks the following supporters:

Clatsop Community College, since the beginning, for its abiding, visionary staff support and for equipment,

KMUN Coast Community Radio for bookkeeping, for being our non-profit home, for promotion and for broadcasting live Friday and Saturday nights,

The Daily Astorian for donating, since 2013, the publishing, printing and distribution of our programs,

The Oregon Arts Commission for its 2015 \$6500 Arts Builds Communities grant,

The City of Astoria for its \$1000 grant from the Arts and Cultural Fund to Promote Tourism,

The Oregon Folklife Network for its partnership and documentation support,

Judi and Milt Stewart, longtime supporters, for their generous \$1500 donation to the 2015 FPG in honor of Judi's brother Jack Connaway, west coast fisherman and skipper of the Adios,

Lum's Auto Center for its \$500 contribution to venue rental expenses,

Englund Marine for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership to help with travel expenses for individual fisherpoets from afar,

Fishhawk Fisheries for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership to help with travel expenses for individual fisherpoets from afar,

Salmon for All for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership to help with travel expenses for individual fisherpoets from afar,

The Patricia Friedland Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation since 2001 for its annual \$250 support grant,

The Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce for national and regional press releases,

Pat Dixon and Chelsea Stephen for their dedicated collaboration producing "Anchored in Deep Water," our new anthology of fisherpoetry,

Sean, Lynne and Patrick Schutte for donating space for the 2015 FisherPoets Gearshack,

The Cannery Pier Hotel and the Astoria Riverwalk Inn for donating rooms to the FPG,

Our venues the **Wet Dog Café, Pier 11, the Voodoo Room, the Columbian Theater, Fort George Brewery and Public House, the Astoria Event Center, KALA and the Columbia River Maritime Museum** for inviting us all in,

Friends and businesses who donated to our silent auction,

Scores of volunteers for greasing the FPG gears and, as always,

Our fisherpoet friends who come, sometimes from very far away and always mostly on their own dime, to gather this weekend in Astoria with us.

Navigating the 2015 FisherPoets Gathering

This weekend every fisherpoetry fan will face a version of the same anxious conundrum that every skipper faces during the season when a radio partner announces that fishing's picked up somewhere he or she isn't.

But every fisherpoetry fan can relax. There are no wrong choices at the FisherPoets Gathering.

A \$15 button gets you into all venues all weekend. Buttons are available early at Lucy's Books (348 12th St.), at KMUN's Tillicum House (1445 Exchange St.), at the Wet Dog Café (144 11th St.), at Old Town Framing (1287 Commercial St.) and, starting Friday afternoon, at the FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack (1144 Commercial St.). Buttons are also available at the door of each FPG venue in the evenings. Children and students under 18 are admitted free.

Whether you hunker down like a setnetter or race around like a nervous herring seine skipper, you'll find reasons to enjoy any of the FisherPoets Gathering evening venues.

Pier 11 is a new one this season. Head inside to the west end where you can find an attentive audience and a seat with a big river view. The Wet Dog crew will keep hungry — and thirsty — fisherpoet fans satisfied at Pier 11. Saturday morning's creative writing and songwriting workshops will meet here, too.

The Wet Dog Café, alternately raucous and rapt, has been the spiritual home of the FisherPoets Gathering since the beginning in 1998. The Wet Dog seats 250 fans and offers its own beers and local, wild seafood and shellfish. Minors are welcome until 10 p.m.

The Voodoo Room — intimate, quirky and often crowded — seats fewer than it sometimes holds and offers pizza and drinks to fisherpoet fans over 21. This season's open-mics are here Friday and Saturday afternoons. Have a go. Everyone loves to read at the Voodoo.

The Astoria Event Center, from which KMUN broadcasts live both nights, boasts the most seats, raised theater seating in the back and a big stage. Minors are welcome always. Saturday night's readings will be translated there by an American Sign Language interpreter.



Photo by Alex Pajunas

Souls of the Sea Trio, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, play at the Wet Dog Café.

KALA, host of the annual Saturday night FisherPoets Dance, seats about 70 in an intimate but lively setting and offers a full bar for fans this weekend. Minors are allowed.

At Fort George Brewery's Lovell Showroom fans can enjoy wine or Fort George's own brew with their fisherpoetry in a performance-focused venue. Minors are welcome, here, too.

Before you take a seat for Friday evening's fisherpoetry, though, drop in at the Columbian Theater where a couple of remarkable films will explore the lives of fishermen and fish at 3 p.m. If you miss Friday's show you can try again Saturday afternoon.

Then, after fisherpoetry Friday night, get up early enough Saturday morning to join others at Pier 11 for songwriting or poetry and prose writing workshops while the Columbia River rolls by beneath.

Or, at the Columbia River Maritime Museum (where your button gains you entry to the Kern and Ford rooms but not beyond), inform yourself further on the health of our Pacific Northwest watersheds and of the very oceans themselves. Decide how to respond intelligently. Or simply learn how to tie a couple of really useful knots. Marvel at the quirky art of Ray Troll.

Have coffee with fisherpoet Dave Densmore on his fishing boat, the Cold Stream, at Pier 39. Visit the historic Hanthorn Bumble Bee cannery while you're there.

Stop by the Gearshack in the afternoon for a look at the silent auction items. Maybe buy a CD or a book by your favorite fisherpoet. Show your support of the FPG and buy an enameled FPG highliner button. Wear it with pride.

Drop in on the Imogen and KALA art galleries to see what fisherpoet artists George Wilson, Robin Rosamond and Kari Glass have been creating.

Saturday afternoon at KALA, where a score of contributors will briefly read, celebrate the publication of the new anthology of fisherpoetry "Anchored in Deep Water." Buy a copy. Get some autographs.

Or visit the Astoria Event Center to enjoy a pleasant earful at the annual "Story Circle," this year featuring fisherpoets from the Pacific, the Atlantic and the North Sea. When that's over, Alexa Wiley plays a Columbia Riverkeeper concert with Dave Densmore. Don't worry. Dave won't sing.

After the evenings' readings, don't head back to the bunk too early. You'll miss Ray Troll and the Ratfish Wranglers in concert at the Columbian Theater.

And if by Saturday night you're ready to have your own go at fisherpoetry, bring it to the umpteenth annual on-site poetry contest, then dance at KALA with new friends and old until midnight.

Stickin' and stayin'? We'll see you Sunday morning at the Event Center. There'll be coffee. Arrive a little early and practice three-part harmony with us before a short, friendly gospel sing followed by a lot of short, friendly fisherpoems as we say so long until next year.

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